



San Francisco Board of Education Parent Advisory Council

The PAC's Priorities for the 2011-2012 School Year

The PAC's process to decide which issues to work on includes looking at data about student achievement over several years; the district's priority initiatives; and reviewing the major questions and concerns we've heard from families during community conversations the PAC has conducted in the past few years.

At the beginning of this school year PAC members met with Board of Education commissioners Hydra Mendoza and Sandy Fewer, as well as SFUSD Deputy Superintendent Richard Carranza and staffers Gentle Blythe and Orla O'Keeffe, to learn more about the district's priorities and strategic initiatives. In September, PAC members voted to set our priorities for this school year:

- Advocate for initiatives to **ensure quality schools in every community**, with stronger support and **accountability** for educators and **higher expectations for all our students**, in the context of the district's focus on the "Core Curriculum."
- Engage families to understand and strengthen the district's implementation of **Restorative Practices to improve school climate and reduce student suspensions**.
- Present recommendations for **expanding access to high-quality afterschool programs**, and effectively aligning the SFUSD-managed afterschool programs.
- Understand and inform the district's budget process
- Support efforts to improve how the district provides Special Education services.
- Monitor and support implementation of the district's **Family Engagement Plan**.
- Actively participate in the community-based Parent Engagement Coalition and the city-wide Afterschool For All Advisory Council.
- Promote parent engagement in the "Superintendent's Zone" initiatives in the Bayview, Mission, Western Addition and Bernal Heights communities.

Developing Action Plans

PAC members signed up for project teams to focus on priority issue areas. Each team will develop specific goals and possible action plans for the PAC's work. One of the most important questions for PAC members is how we can effectively support student achievement, especially efforts to close the ongoing gaps in opportunity and achievement between different populations of children. The PAC will meet with district staff, as well as other parent and education advocates, to look at ways we can work together to engage families and community members in these initiatives.